

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

A Half Hour's Pleasant Reading
For Boys and Girls.

A SHORT CHAPTER ON LUCK.

Dr. Samuel Johnson and His Favorite Cat
"Hodge"—The Great Man was in the Habit
of Raving Oysters for His Feline Pet.

Numbered with distinguished men who
have made pots of cats was the good and wise
Dr. Samuel Johnson. His favorite cat was
named Hodge, and Hodge, consequently, had
his praises written in both prose and
poetry by his master's biographers.



DR. JOHNSON AND HIS CAT "HODGE."
Dean Coolidge tells how:
Bury and tie his books among
(good Samuel Johnson sat,
With frowning brows and wig askew,
His snuff stream whisked from new;
So stern and menacing his air
That rather "Black Sam" nor the maid
To knock or interrupt him dare—
Yet close beside him, unafraid,
Sat Hodge the cat.

Hodge was well taken care of, for the doc-
tor in the habit of treating him to oys-
ters, going out to buy them himself, for he
thought that if the servants had to do so
they might take a dislike to the poor animal
for causing them trouble, and therefore
"lick him on the sly."

Samuel Johnson was born in 1709, and died
in 1784. He was buried at Westminster
abbey close by the grave of Garrick. His
dictionary, entitled its author to being con-
sidered the founder of English lexicography,
appeared in 1755.

The Crown Prince of Japan.

Of the children of the emperor of Japan
only one son and one daughter remain to him.
Prince Haru and the Princess Hise. Yoshi
Hito, Haru no Miya celebrated his ninth
birthday on Aug. 31, 1888, and if he lives
will succeed his father on the throne. Prin-
cess Hise is 7 years old, but although em-
presses have ruled Japan in the early cen-
turies, the line of succession passed from Prince
Haru to the emperor.

The word Haru in the Japanese language

means springtime, and Aki, the name of
the last little prince who died,
means autumn, so uniform, so important, the
brothers, Prince Spring and Prince Autumn,
were often spoken of to-
gether, and the play
upon their names
gave court poets
many opportunities
to turn graceful
verses to them.

Prince Haru was
born in the Tokyo
palace, and until
his second year lived in the Imperial
series in the Nakayama Yashiki, a black
walled place facing the castle moats. After
that he was transferred to the palace of the
emperor's daughter, but he now resides with
the emperor.

Prince Haru has the rank of a colonel in
the Japanese army, and wears his military
uniform and his cap with the gold star all the
time, his clothes being dark blue cloth in
winter and white duck in summer. He is
fond of riding, and, when mounted, the mini-
ature colonel trots along at a fine gallop, giving
and returning the military salute as he passes
an officer or a sentry like a young martinet,
says a writer in St. Nicholas, from which the
picture here given is a reproduction.

A Short Chapter on "Luck."

We have always had our doubts as to the
existence of what is generally termed "luck."
Men who, either by favorable circumstances
or an unexplained force of fortune, are al-
ways seeming to be favored, are termed
"lucky," and many are inclined to covet
them its possession. But here is a truth-
ful remark from one of our exchanges,
which bears out our theory that "luck" is
only a myth, and in reality it is only by our
own personal exertions and efforts that we
are ever really lucky: "If the boy who ex-
claims, 'Just my luck' was truthful he would
say, 'Just my laziness' or 'Just my inatten-
tion!'"

"Mr. Colburn wrote proverbs about 'Luck
and Labor.' It would be well for boys to
remember them. Luck is waiting for some-
thing to turn up. Labor, with keen eyes and
strong will, will turn up something. Luck
lies in bed and wishes the postman would
bring him news of a legacy. Labor turns
out at 6 o'clock, and with busy pen or ring-
ing hammer lays the foundation of a com-
petency. Luck wishes labor to win. Luck
relies on chance, labor on character. Luck
strides down to indolence. Labor strides up
ward to independence."

How It Happened.

A fragile, snow white roach, poised on a slender
stem,
Grew in a shady corner in the heart of a fairy
glade—
"Shine down on me, good sun," it prayed, "oh,
let me see your face;
Make me grow strong and lovely and I'll beautify
this place."

Down through a rift in the leafage a golden sun-
beam shone;
"Oh flower of noble purpose, King Sun sends
greeting to you!"
Then the grateful snow white roach in shy-
ness bowed its head,
And straightway every petal blushed a glowing,
ruby red.

—Agnes Maria Melholland.

The Hub.

Oliver Wendell Holmes is credited with
giving the name of "The Hub" to Boston in
the following:
"Boston state house is the hub of the solar
system. You couldn't pry that out of a Bos-
ton man if you had the fire of all creation
straightened out for a crowbar."

The Use of "Like" and "As."

Discriminate in the use of "like" and "as."
Don't say, "Do like I do." "You must read
like James does." Use as. Like is followed
by an object only; as does not take a verb in
the same construction. As is followed by a
verb, expressed or understood.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Domical Letter—The Golden Num-
ber—Why So Named.
The Domical letter is the letter which
in our almanacs marks Sunday (dies Domini).
In the calendar the letter of January is always
denoted by A, and the Domical letter is
that which denotes the first Sunday, and ex-

cept in leap year, all other Sundays of the
year. In leap year there are two Domical
letters, the first for the Sundays between
Jan. 1 and Feb. 29, the second for the other
Sundays of the year, the interpolation being
postponed until the end of February instead
of being made at the beginning of the year.
We do not know who invented the Domical
letter, perhaps Dionysius Exiguus, who
lived A. D. 530, and devised the Dionysian or
common era, dating it from the time of
Christ. The Domical letters are based on
the Roman numeral letters; the Roman
market day happened every ninth day. The
Christian adopted the Jewish week, and nec-
essarily the numeral letters fell into disuse
among them. There are no year letters; the
golden numbers represent the number of the
year in the lunar cycle of nineteen years; at
the end of that cycle the moon has her
changes on the same day of the solar year
and month on which she had them nineteen
years previously. The numbers of this cycle
are of great use in determining Easter, and
got their name by being written in the calen-
dar in letters of gold.

British Divorce Statistics.

The return of divorce suits and judicial
separations, asked for by Mr. Gladstone last
December and just published, gives a series
of figures extending from 1858 to the end of
1887. Of course no comments are made, only
the bare numerical statement is printed, but
the figures speak eloquently enough. Alto-
gether, during the thirty years over which
the record extends, there were 2,734 petitions
for judicial separations and 10,561 for divorce.
Of the former, more than one-third were
successful, and about one-eighth were dis-
missed; the rest, that is to say, more than
half, being arranged privately. A much
larger part of the divorce cases resulted suc-
cessfully, the number of decrees pronounced
being 7,321, an average of 246 per year, and
nearly three-quarters of the number of peti-
tions. About 2,433 cases never came to a
hearing, but of those which were brought
into court only 812, or one-thirteenth of the
total, were dismissed. The queen's proctor
intervened in 294 cases, four times out of
five with the result of a reversal of the de-
cree. But such general summaries give a
very poor idea of the actual state of things
which this striking return reveals. If the
various statistics are studied carefully it is at
once obvious how very greatly the number of
petitions has increased in recent years.

The Oyster in Mail.

Dr. A. Oester, an authority on the oyster,
who recently read a paper on the subject be-
fore the Georgia Historical society, says:
"Mad is the most formidable enemy of the
oyster. Even if the water which passes
through its gills or lungs is muddy, the little
creature dies from asphyxia or suffocation.
If, in its search for the homestead, upon
which its life depends, it encounters a film of
mud the thickness of a sheet of writing
paper, its fine, soft organs of locomotion
being, inadequate to free it from the engulf-
ing medium, its course is run. A large oyster
may be deposited upon a muddy bottom and
survive, provided the mud be of sufficient
consistency to sustain its weight so that its
bill may reach high enough above the
bottom of the animal to draw clean water
through its gills for the purification of its
blood, and into its mouth for its support."

Castle Williams.

Castle Williams, not William, is on the
western extremity of Governor's island in
New York harbor. It looks like a tower, or
like a chess box that isn't on a raft. Fort
Lafayette is on an island in the Narrows,
under the bluff on which Fort Hamilton
stands. Castle Williams was named after
Col. Jonathan Williams, who was first
commandant of West Point in 1802, engineer
in chief of the army in 1805, and died in
1815. He built most of the later fortifica-
tions of New York harbor, including Fort
Columbus and Castle Williams, on Gover-
nor's island, and Fort Clinton, now Castle
Garden.

Carpenter's Great Painting.

When Carpenter painted the picture of the
death of Lincoln the figure of Andrew
Johnson was one of those gathered about the
couch, and this was as it should be, for he
was really there with the members of the
cabinet and others. Before the picture was
quite finished, however, the feeling in the
north had grown so bitter against Johnson
that the artist feared lest the popularity of
the picture would be injured by the appear-
ance of it of the then chief executive. He
therefore erased President Johnson and in-
serted Schuyler Colfax in his stead, although
Colfax was not really present at the death of
Lincoln.

Death of Charles XII.

Charles XII of Sweden was killed at the
siege of Fredericksburg, Dec. 11, 1718. It is
not certainly known how he was killed, or by
whom. He was found during the siege lean-
ing against a parapet, as if examining the
works, his hand on his sword and a prayer
book in his pocket. It is said that he was
killed by a cannon shot, but it is now gener-
ally supposed that he was killed by a pistol
shot from the hands of a traitorous soldier.
The life of Charles XII is more curious than
that of any other sovereign.

From Gate to Horn.

The Golden Gate connects San Francisco
bay with the Pacific ocean. The Golden
Horn is the curved inlet of the Bosphorus
forming a considerable part of the harbor of
Constantinople. To go from the Golden Gate
to the Golden Horn, the route is over the Pa-
cific ocean, Magellan straits, Atlantic ocean,
Straits of Gibraltar, Mediterranean sea, Gre-
cian Archipelago, Straits of Bosphorus, Sea
of Marmora into the Bosphorus. The
Golden Horn is so called from its curved
shape, and is large enough to float 1,200 ships
at one time.

Longevity.

The average age at which mankind die is
now forty years, and is steadily on the in-
crease. The United States, despite the talk
about the rapidity with which the Americans
wear themselves out, forges ahead of every
other nation on earth in respect to the long-
evity of its citizens, fifty-five years being
the average here. Of all the nations of Eu-
rope Russia is the most of a favorite with
the death angel.

An Adage.

"Never look a gift horse in the mouth," is
a saying of Butler's in Hudibras. A similar
sentiment comes from Rabelais and St. Je-
rome. The significance is, never criticize
what is done for you as a personal favor.

The First Cent.

The first American cent was struck off and
circulated in 1781. Previous to this date
several patterns had been struck off, but they
were never circulated.

There was a terrible epidemic of dysen-

tory and bloody flux in Pope county, Illi-
nois, last summer. As many as five deaths
occurred in one day. Messrs. Walter
Brothers, of Waltersburg, sold over three
hundred and eighty bottles of Chamber-
lain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy
during this epidemic and say they never
heard of its failing in any case when the
directions were followed. It was the only
medicine used that did cure the worst
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